



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Vermont*

*United States Courthouse and Federal Building
Post Office Box 570
Burlington, Vermont 05402-0570*

*(802) 951-6725
Fax: (802) 951-6540*

April 2, 2003

Re: United States v. A. Cappocia, Sinnott, Daly, DiNatile, Kolsky, C. Cappocia, Spano

USAO # 2001R00206 Court Docket# 1:03-CR-35

Dear Sir or Madam:

On March 10, 2003 several persons associated with the Law Centers for Consumer Protection were charged with a variety of federal crimes in the District of Vermont. Specifically, the Grand Jury has charged Howard Sinnott, the owner of the Law Centers operation in Vermont with a variety of fraud offenses related to his management of business during the period 2000-2003. Andrew Capoccia, the owner of the predecessor debt reduction firm; Thomas Daly, an attorney-employee of the Law Centers; and two other employees were charged along with Sinnott. The principal accusations in the Indictment are that the defendants misappropriated millions of dollars in client escrow and retainer monies. The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Gregory Waples.

Previously, the former executive director of the Law Centers and a former chief financial officer have pleaded guilty in Vermont to federal fraud charges stemming from their employment at the firm. Both are cooperating with the investigation and are awaiting sentencing.

The defendants charged this month have recently been arraigned and have pleaded not guilty. We do not know yet when any trial will take place. The case is a very complex one, and it will be at least a year before the case is resolved.

You probably have also received a note from the Bankruptcy Court because the Law Centers Corporation has been placed in involuntary bankruptcy in the District of Vermont. It is too early to know exactly what will happen with this bankruptcy case. Our office, however, is attempting to represent the interests of any possible victims of the charged crimes who at some point in time might be beneficiaries of some restitution award. Any order of restitution would not come until the criminal cases are resolved.

In addition to bankruptcy action, our office has sought to forfeit over 2.5 million dollars in accounts controlled by Carol Capoccia, Andrew Capoccia's wife. This forfeiture is not yet resolved and the relationships among these legal proceedings – the criminal case, the bankruptcy,

and the forfeiture case – have yet to be determined. At some point in time we may need to obtain information from you related to the impact these crimes have had on you. We anticipate giving notice of the need for such information on our office website described below. Typically, Victim Impact Statements are not obtained until after conviction.

We understand that information may have been requested from you by the Bankruptcy Court. While we are trying to represent the interests of potential restitution victims in the Bankruptcy Court, our office cannot give you advice on how you should proceed individually in the bankruptcy action, because we cannot act as your attorney.

It is the concern of our office that victims of federal crime be treated fairly throughout their contact with the criminal justice system. We recognize the need to keep victims of these serious crimes aware of various developments. But in light of the fact that there are many thousands of victims, we cannot proceed in the fashion we might in a much smaller case. For example, this will be the only letter from our office you will receive. Instead, we will be setting up a part of our office's website as a source for additional information about the criminal case and its relationship to other legal proceedings. Our office website address is: www.usdoj.gov/usao/vt/. You will then see a link for "Law Centers for Consumer Protection". Click on this for information about this case.

In addition, the Victim Notification System (VNS) is designed to provide you with information regarding the status of the case. A VNS brochure provides instructions for accessing the Victim Notification System Call Center. You may use the Victim Identification Number and Personal Identification Number (PIN) assigned to you below to telephone the VNS Call Center (1-866-DOJ-4YOU) or (1-866-365-4968), TDD/TTY users call 1-866-228-4619, and obtain the current status of the case. In addition, you can call the toll-free number and speak with an operator to update your contact information and or change your decision about participation in the VNS notification program.

Your Victim Identification Number (ID) is XXXXXX. And your PIN is XXXX.

Sincerely yours,

PETER W. HALL
United States Attorney

By:

Aimee B. Stearns
Victim Witness Specialist